

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 8, 2011

The Honorable Ray Mabus
Secretary of the Navy
U.S. Department of Defense
2000 Navy Pentagon
Washington, DC 20350-2000

Dear Secretary Mabus:


We write today to respectfully request that the U.S.S. Arlington (LPD-24) be commissioned in the Commonwealth of Virginia at Norfolk.


The U.S.S. Arlington, as you know, was built to honor the heroes and victims of the September 11, 2001, attack on the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia. We are extremely proud of the bravery shown by local police officers, fire fighters, Pentagon employees and other first responders that horrific day and this is a fitting tribute to all who were affected.

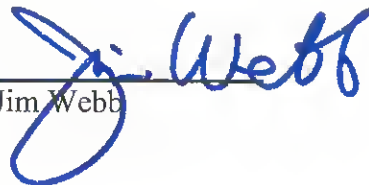
Unfortunately, we have been informed that the Navy is considering commissioning the U.S.S. Arlington at several ports outside of the Commonwealth. Given that the ship is named to honor the vital role Virginia played in responding to the attacks of September 11th, we believe it would be a mistake to commission the U.S.S. Arlington at any location outside of the Commonwealth of Virginia. This would be consistent with the way the Pentagon has handled this unique class of ships, which included the commissioning of the USS New York in New York City.

We therefore request that you direct the U.S.S. Arlington be commissioned in Norfolk, Virginia. Thank you for your close attention to this matter, and we look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,


James P. Moran


Mark Warner


Jim Webb

9 Randy Forbes Robert Wittman

J. Randy Forbes

Robert Wittman

Robert C. Scott

Robert C. Scott

Eric Cantor

Eric Cantor

Scott Rigell

Scott Rigell

Robert Hurt

Robert Hurt

Gerald E. Connolly

Gerald E. Connolly

Frank R. Wolf

Frank R. Wolf

Morgan Griffith

Morgan Griffith

Robert W. Goodlatte

Robert W. Goodlatte